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AUG 25 2006

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Michael C. Robinson et al.

Serial No.: 10/633,804

Filed: August 4, 2003

Docket No.: 200207438-1

Title: COMPUTER DATABASE ACCESS

REMARKS

The following Remarks are made in response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed May 25, 2006, in which claims 1-21 were rejected.

With this Amendment and Response, claims 18-20 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 1, 7, 15, and 21 have been amended to clarify Applicant's invention.

Claims 1-17 and 21, therefore, remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuchiya US Patent No. 6,950,864, in view of "Essential SNMP", by Douglas Mauro et al. October 15, 2001.

With this Amendment, claims 18-20 have been cancelled without prejudice. The rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), therefore, is rendered moot.

With this Amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the method includes "an agent receiving said unique identifier from said management application and storing said unique identifier in a restricted intermediate database distinct from the database of interest," includes "said agent receiving said data type from said management application and storing said data type in said restricted intermediate database," and includes "said agent receiving said action from said management application and issuing an action command to the database of interest to perform said action on said data item, wherein said agent uses said stored unique identifier, said stored data type, and said action in issuing said action command," with said agent "receiving a response to said action command from the database of interest" and "sending said response to said management application."

With this Amendment, independent claim 7 has been amended to clarify that the apparatus includes an agent software program programmed to "receive said unique identifier from said first network device and store said unique identifier in a restricted intermediate database distinct from the database of interest," programmed to "receive said data type from said first network device and store said data type in said restricted intermediate database," and programmed to "receive said action from said first network

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device and issue said action command to the database of interest to perform said action on said data item using said stored unique identifier, said stored data type, and said action," such that the agent software program is programmed to "receive said response from the database of interest" and "send said response to said first network device."

With this Amendment, independent claim 15 has been amended to clarify that the apparatus includes an agent software program programmed to "receive said unique identifier from said network management station and store said unique identifier in a restricted intermediate database distinct from the database of interest," programmed to "receive said data type from said network management station and store said data type in said restricted intermediate database," and programmed to "receive said action from said network management station and issue said action command to the database of interest to perform said action on said data item using said stored unique identifier, said stored data type, and said action," such that the agent software program is programmed to "receive a response to said action command from the database of interest" and "send said response to said network management station."

With this Amendment, independent claim 21 has been amended to clarify that the method includes "an agent receiving said unique identifier from said management application and storing said unique identifier in a restricted intermediate database distinct from the database of interest," includes "said agent receiving said data type from said management application and storing said data type in said restricted intermediate database," and includes "said agent receiving said action from said management application and issuing an action command to the database of interest to perform said action on said data item, wherein said agent uses said stored unique identifier, said stored data type, and said action in issuing said action command," with said agent "receiving a response to said action command from the database of interest" and "sending said response to said management application."

Independent claims 1, 7, 15, and 21, therefore, each include an agent (1) receiving a unique identifier for a data item, a data type for the data item, and an action to be performed on said data item from a management application or network device/management station, (2) storing the unique identifier and the data type in a restricted intermediate database distinct from the database of interest, and (3) issuing an action command to the database of interest to

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perform the action on the data item using the stored unique identifier, the stored data type, and the action, whereby the agent (4) receives a response from the database of interest and sends the response to the management application or network device/management station.

With respect to the Tsuchiya and Mauro references, Applicant submits that these references, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest a method for a management application accessing a database of interest as claimed in independent claim 1, do not teach or suggest an apparatus for accessing a database of interest as claimed in independent claim 7, do not teach or suggest an apparatus for accessing a database of interest as claimed in independent claim 15, and do not teach or suggest a computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions for performing a method of a management application accessing a database of interest as claimed in independent claim 21.

For example, the Tsuchiya patent discloses a network management system including a host device 11 connected to a managed device 13 with management performed on the basis of SNMP (Simple Network Management Protocol) commands transmitted and received between an SNMP manager 12 incorporated in the host device 11 and an SNMP agent 14 incorporated in the managed device 13 (col. 4, lines 7-28; Fig. 1). The SNMP agent 14 of the Tsuchiya patent includes an SNMP command executing section 15, an MIB (Management Information Base) processing section 16, and a control processing section 17 (col. 4, lines 45-48; Fig. 1), with the control processing section 17 further including a command analyzing section 18 and an object managing section 19 (col. 4, lines 58-60; Fig. 3), and the object managing section 19 further including a management table 20, a processing rule record section 21, a table managing section 22, and a response processing section 23 (col. 5, lines 6-9; Fig. 4).

The management table 20 of the Tsuchiya patent is composed of a management object identifier, a management object collection time, a collected management object, and classification data, wherein the management object identifier is stored in a memory area 20a, the management object collection time is stored in a memory area 20b, the management object is stored in a memory area 20c, and the classification data is stored in a memory area 20d of management table 20 (col. 5, line 12 - col. 6, line 27; Fig. 5). As the management table 20 of the Tsuchiya patent is included in the object managing section 19 of the control processing section 17 of the SNMP agent 14, the management object identifier, the

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management object collection time, the collected management object, and the classification data of the Tsuchiya patent, therefore, are each stored in SNMP agent 14.

The Tsuchiya patent, however, does not disclose the management object identifier, the management object collection time, the collected management object, nor the classification data as being stored in a restricted intermediate database distinct from a database of interest. Furthermore, the Tsuchiya patent does not disclose issuing an action command to a database of interest to perform an action on a data item using a stored unique identifier, a stored data type, and the action, whereby an agent receives a response from the database of interest and sends the response to a management application or network device/management station.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 7, 15, and 21 are each patentably distinct from the Tsuchiya and Mauro references and, therefore, are each in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, as dependent claims 2-6 further define patentably distinct claim 1, dependent claims 8-14 further define patentably distinct claim 7, and dependent claims 16-17 further define patentably distinct claim 15, Applicant submits that these dependent claims are also in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that claims 1-17 and 21 be allowed.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-17 and 21 are all in a condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either Nathan Reith at Telephone No. (208) 396-5287, Facsimile No. (208) 396-3958 or Scott A. Lund at Telephone No. (612) 573-2006, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on this 25th day of August, 2006.

By 
Name: Scott A. Lund